

The Founding of Fredericksburg

By B. Morris Strouss, Esq.

PAPER READ BEFORE THE
LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
AUGUST 15, 1913

As Edited and Revised by

EZRA GRUMBINE, M.D.
Mt. Zion, Pa.

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NOTE

At a stated meeting of the Society held April 28, 1905, part of a lengthy paper on "Fredericksburg" was read, the facts and general plan for which Paper had been prepared by B. Morris Strouss, Esq., at that time a member of the Society, but who at the time of the reading of the Paper had already removed to the City of Reading. The notes and memoranda for said Paper, gathered by Mr. Strouss at the cost of extended and careful research as well as the parts of the Paper he had himself put into composition, he placed into the hands of his friend, Col. A. Frank Seltzer, who had them type-written and arranged into consecutive and readable form, and as such it then constituted the Paper read in part of the Society at the meeting named above, Mr. Strouss, however, reserving that later on he might revise, amend and finish out the Paper for its publication by the Society, and also add certain biographical sketches of the leading earliest settlers of Fredericksburg.

On account of certain hindrances in his way Mr. Strouss did not, or could not give the earlier manuscript, as read April 28, 1905, his intended and promised revision, and it remained in the hands of the Society's Executive Committee these years unfinished and incomplete for publication. In view of this, and for the reason that Mr. Strouss' work possessed much and unqualifiedly historic merit, and that its publication in completed form would prove a valuable acquisition to the Society's archives, Dr. E. Grumbine, of Mt. Zion, another member of the Society, and a native of Fredericksburg, and who for many years had been a resident thereof, and who is particularly well informed as to its traditions and history, was requested kindly to take the Strouss manuscript in hand, revise, amend and edit it in part or in whole according to his own best judgment in the matter and then read to the Society the revised version. He shall or may have constructed it. Dr. Grumbine kindly presented to this request and at a meeting of the Society, held August 18, 1913, read to it his excellent revision of the earlier Strouss Paper on Fredericksburg, and as it now appears herein in print.

The Society is under many obligations to Messrs. Strouss, Seltzer and Grumbine for their services in the production of this excellent Paper on one of the County's most historic sites, as also to Mr. Jacob Schnotterly, of Fredericksburg, for the war-rant land draft embellishing this Paper.

SECRETARY OF THE SOCIETY.

The Founding of Fredericksburg

By B. MORRIS STROUSS, Esq.

Fredericksburg is a well-planned, well-built town of 700 inhabitants in Bethel township, Lebanon county, Pennsylvania. It is located upon slightly elevated ground between two small streams which have their source at the "Little Mountain," a mile to the north. These streams empty into Spanuth's formerly Grove's, mill-dam. Elizabeth Creek flows south from the dam and falls into the Little Swatara two miles southwest of the town. A third stream from the northeast winds its serpentine course among fertile meads and verdant glades, and unites with the middle creek (Desh Run or Beach creek) half a mile below the village to the southeast.

The basin of these streams is from three to five miles long and of the same width, extending westward until it meets the basin of the "Big Swatara," and eastward to the basin of the Erlekill. This is also a tributary of the Little Swatara and received its name from the native growth of alder bushes on its banks, which in German are called *erle heckers*. It is a stream famous for eels and catfish.

The town lies nine miles north of the county seat, and three miles northeast of Jonestown, its nearest railway station, and for many years it was the polling place for the election district of Bethel township. With the outside world it has communication three times daily, except Sundays, by mail and stage coach or omnibus.

It has five church edifices in which worship Lutherans, Reformed, United Brethren, two sects of German Baptists or Dunkers, and the people of the "Church of God." It was formerly the seat of Schuylkill Seminary, an institution of learning under the patronage of the Evangelical Association of North America whose beautiful building has of late years been converted into a cigar factory. It has four schools in one large building, three hotels, four stores, two creameries,

one national bank, a number of small industrial plants, and all the trades and handicrafts of a live and healthy country town. It is a place of peace and plenty, and the poet, Goldsmith's lines, may be fittingly quoted or paraphrased in describing it,— — —

Loveliest village of the plain!

Where health and plenty cheer the laboring swain,

Where smiling Spring its earliest visit pays

And parting Summer's lingering bloom delays."

One that has stood upon a high point of the Little

Mountain north of Fredericksburg on a clear, cloudless day in early June, when Nature is putting forth her most strenuous efforts to robe the earth in its fairest garb of emerald in order to bring forth all that is needful for man's enjoyment and use, just before the more fervent rays of the summer sun have put the ripening touch upon the clover, rye and wheat, —and has gazed upon the valley below and far beyond upon others of equal beauty, may not wish to look upon a fairer landscape. Through the clear air one sees Fredericksburg a mile or two below like a little gem set in the surrounding expanse of living green. Looking southward beyond the valley of the Little Swatara, one sees the pillars of smoke rising skyward from the Lebanon industrial plants, and still farther beyond, the dark clouds overhanging the furnace stacks of Cornwall, when the South Mountain and the hills of old Schaefferstown obstruct one's further vision. Turning to the southwest one beholds the valley of the Big Swatara, also the hills of Hanover, when the smoke of the Manada furnaces terminates the range of sight. Looking east and southeast, the valley of the Little Swatara, the borough of Myerstown, numerous small hamlets, the two church steeples of Mt. Zion and the broad Lebanon Valley, arrayed in its brightest and richest and best, stretches to view!

The gentle breeze that blows across the plain from the southwest makes undulating billows of the tall grain of the fields, and, sweeping up the mountain side, it plays through the foliage of the trees among which the wild birds are chorusing their morning songs, while the quivering leaves move and turn, giving the illusive appearance of life even to the surrounding rocks and bushes. Were the writer an artist he could paint of this scene the loveliest landscape eyes ever saw,

but, being only a modest historian, he will descend from the mountain height into the village of Fredericksburg and begin its history.

By taking a surveyor's transit-compass to the extreme east end of Market street, the historian learns that that thoroughfare extends almost directly east and west, deflecting its course westward only 13 degrees towards the north. It has a square, two blocks in length and 60 feet in width, in the centre of town. At right angles to it runs Center street through the middle of the square. The other thoroughfares are parallel to one or the other of these principal streets. The general plan shows that the town was regularly laid out, the size of the lots being four by twelve perches, except those in market square which are four by ten perches.

It is recounted in Vol. 2, page 385 of the Colonial Records that on June 27 in the year 1707, John Evans, esq., Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Pennsylvania, left Philadelphia with Messrs. John French, William Tonge, Mitchell Bezallon, Mr. Grey and four servants, to make a journey among the Indians. They traveled through the Pequea valley and held a meeting with the Indians on June 30. On July 1 the party got to "Conestogue" and stayed there all night. The next morning they left for Peixtan (now Harrisburg) arriving in its vicinity in the evening. Next day in the morning they effected the arrest of one Nicole Godin, charged with some offence against the good of the country.

The experiences of the trip are concluded in these words: ————"Here (the Indian village of Peixtan) we stayed about half an hour, and departed for Tulpehocken, having mounted Nicole upon a horse and tied his legs under the belly; we went within a mile of Tulpehocken about 2 of ye clock in the morning (July 4), and about 7 the Governor went to the town; from thence he went to Maxatawny that night and the next day to Philadelphia." This Indian village of Tulpehocken was located on the creek of the same name a short distance east of Stouchsburg. The party came along the Swatara and passed through the township of Bethel. As they traveled at night, some of the party must have been acquainted with the territory through which they went. Nicole Godin stated on his trial in London that he was born of French parents, and had been for 20 years an inhabitant

of the Province of Pennsylvania. From this it may be inferred that Godin and other Indian traders and explorers had visited this section long before.

About 16 years later another party passed through Bethel and became the pioneers of eastern Lebanon and western Berks counties. Some of these *remained* within the borders of what is now Bethel township and became its *first settlers*. These were the Germans who came from Schoharie in New York. Why they left their homes in the Palatinate and came to London in 1708 and 1709; and how and why they with 3,000 others thence embarked on Dec. 25, 1709, for the province of New York, and how they settled along the Hudson; and how they, because of unjust treatment by the English Colonial authorities, abandoned their homes, and penetrating into the wilderness, settled at Schoharie west of Albany, and how they, because of further and worse persecutions, determined to forsake their new homes which they had conquered from the wild rather than submit to being robbed of their ten years of toil, and migrating south to the Province of Penn'a, settled along the banks of the Swatara and the Tulpehocken, of whose fair and fertile fields they had heard, again to make new homes and be free, is an *old story* and need not be repeated here in detail. *Only as they came through Bethel* need they engage our attention.

In the Spring of the year, 1723, they came, a straggling party of 33 families. They made a road from Schoharie to the Susquehanna, and over it they transported their worldly goods to the river where they transferred them to rude rafts and boats, which, carrying also the women and children, floated down the stream, while the men with their cattle went on foot along the banks. When they arrived at the confluence of the river and the Swatara at Middletown they turned to their left and proceeded up the smaller stream to the forks of the Big and Little Swatara. Here they followed the course of the Little Swatara, passing through Bethel, probably between Frederickburg and Mt. Zion. Some of the wanderers remained and settled near the Swatara, while others turned south and crossed the higher lands and founded homes in the valley of the Tulpehocken. Five years later, in 1728, fifty of the families followed over the same route accompanied by

the famous Conrad Weiser, who with his family settled half a mile east of Womelsdorf.

The first party of 33 families must have consisted of nearly 200 souls, including women and children. How long it took them to make the journey, and the vicissitudes and hardships of the same, are not matters of record, but what a theme for the poet, the artist and the romance writer!

In the papers "relating to provincial affairs" is found a communication by James Mitchell to Secretary Logan from Donegal (Lancaster Co.) under date of May 13, 1723, which reads as follows:—"I give you to know that there are fifteen families of Dutch come from Albany, and they are now settling up the Swatara." It may therefore be concluded that *some* of our ancestors were from Schoharie and that they were here and located as early as May, 1723, in the vicinity of Fredericksburg.

They were not molested by the red men, who probably at times acted as their friendly guides. At that period of our history there was not that enmity between the natives and the early settlers which arose afterwards. This was the first large party that came to stay. *Their eyes first* beheld the beauty of the Little Swatara and its lovely valley, and they may well be termed the *First Settlers*.

In gathering the data for writing the history of the families to which the writer is allied, it was from his grandmother, Mary Ann Smith, a born Batdorf, at that time in her eighty-sixth year, that he obtained much valuable information. She was born on the ancestral homestead of the first American Batdorf, and lived in the same neighborhood all her life. Her knowledge of the aged people she met in her youth and her clear recollections of the past, made the work of research easy.

It appears that Martin and Maria Elizabeth Batdorf and their family of young children were from Schoharie. I. D. Rupp states that they came in 1728. There is, however, record evidence that they were here in 1727 and they probably came with the *first* party, in 1723.

To a petition laid before the court at Philadelphia in September 1727 asking to lay out a road "Beginning at the Lutheran Meeting-house at Tulpehocken and to end at the high road at the Quaker Meeting-house near George Boone's

Mill at Oley," the name of Martin Batdorf is attached. They seated themselves on the banks of the Little Swatara, on the south side of the road leading from Frystown to Rehrersburg, nearly a mile east of the former village. The farm where John Henry Edris now lives, marks the site where they settled. Here Batdorf bought 453 acres from Hannah P. Freame, sole heir to Thomas Freame who was granted ten thousand acres of land, called Freame's Manor, by the Penns on Oct. 2, 1733, after title was obtained from the Indians on September 1732. Margaret Freame, the wife of Thomas, was a sister of *Thomas Penn*.

Here the Batdorfs lived, prospered and raised a large family, as the Marriage and Baptismal records of Christ Lutheran church half a mile west of Stouchsburg where they worshipped after 1743, bear abundant testimony. Batdorf was an officer of the church at various times, and as a lay delegate and deacon, (*vorsteher*.) attended the formation of what is now "The Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania and adjacent States," at Philadelphia in August 1748. He and other church officials from Tulpehocken and Northkill (*Berndville*) affixed their signatures to a call to Rev. Nicholas Kurtz who had just been ordained to the ministry to serve them as pastor at their churches. The call bears date of Aug. 13, 1748.

Martin Batdorf and Elizabeth his wife lived to a ripe old age, the records showing that they stood sponsors to children as late as 1767. The Berks county records also show that they divided their large tract of land into smaller ones, and deeded them to their children and their grandchildren.

The members of this family who came with them from Schearie or were born here, were Herman, George Peter Christian, John Adam, Martin, Henry, Maria Margaret married to John Weiser, Catharine Elizabeth married to Christian W. Walborn, Catharine married to Christian Noecker, and Maria Elizabeth Batdorf. These were all children of Martin Batdorf. The late Lebanon county treasurer, Capt. John G. Batdorf, was a direct descendant through Herman, while the writer of this paper traces descent from Christian.

Another worthy ancestral couple that came with this party were John Heinrich and Anna Maria Zeller. They came in 1723 or 1724, and settled along a branch of the Swatara, about

a mile north of Mt. Aetna in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. The Recorder's office of the County makes known the fact that on December 3, 1738, Casper Wistar, of Philadelphia, Brass Button maker, and Katharine, his wife, for fifty-two pounds, sold to Henry Zeller, of Lancaster County, 130 acres of land on a branch of the Little Swahatawro, adjoining Freame's Manor, and lands of Conrad Sharp, he the said Henry Zeller, to hold the same "Under and subject to the proportionable part of the Proprietary Quit rent hereafter accruing for the premises, it being one red rose for 10,000 acres. These Zellers were members of the Tulpehocken Reformed Church, two miles east of Myerstown. He was an elder of the same in 1740, as he joins with the other church officers in a letter dated February 11th of that year to pay John Philip Boehm for defending their action in suffering a certain person to preach to them on the ground that they could get no one else. A copy of the letter is in the possession of Rev. Dr. James I. Good, of Reading. Zeller died about January 1756, and left to survive, according to his will probated on the 20th of said month in the Register's office of Berks County, his widow and Anna Maria, wife of Andreas Saltzgeber, Anna Catharine, wife of John Pontius, Anna Elizabeth, wife of Leonard Schwartz (marrying him as a widow, her first husband having been John Adam Batdorf) Barbara, wife of Jonas Lerue Hartman, John, John David, John Henrich and John George, their children. John George was willed the paternal acres, and on Howell's map of 1792 the place is marked as "Zellers."

The Zerbes who came with this first company were also of the same family. They too have become a numerous and respected people in Berks, Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties. Martin Zerbe's name is also attached to the before-mentioned petition for a road.

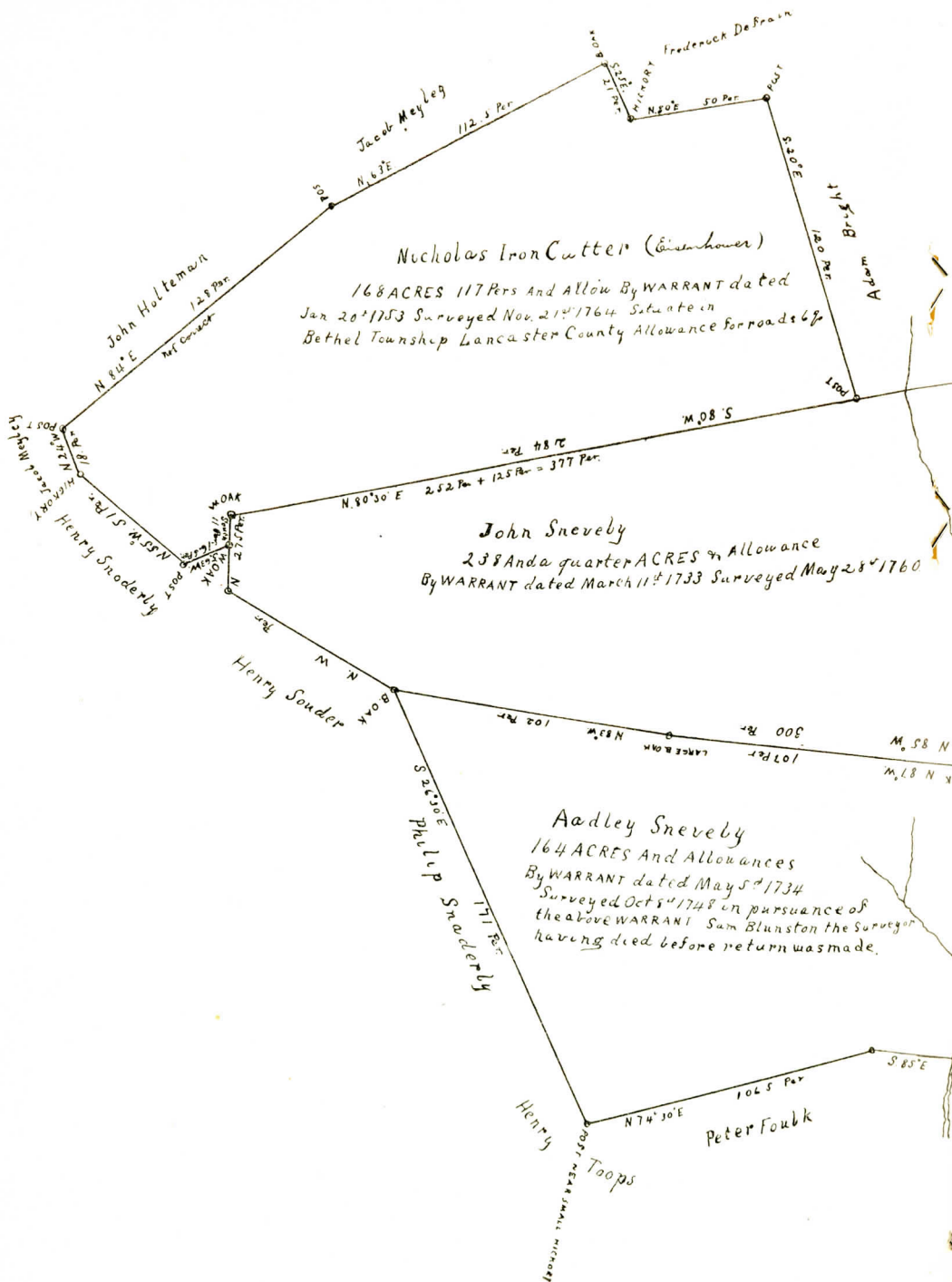
Others of these early pioneers of Eastern Lebanon and western Berks Counties were the Anspachs, Walborns, Scharfs, Lauers, Rieth's, (Reed's), Leschs, Fischers, Schaeffers, Noeckers, Kapps, Leowenguts, (Livingoods), Schmidts, Sixs, Kattermans, Fitlers, Holsteiners (Holsteins), Weisers.

Another of the Schoharie party, Michael Sheffer with his family took up a tract of land where Greble now stands, within the present limits of Bethel Township. That section

of land was also a part of Freame's Manor. Thomas Freame and Margaret, his wife, conveyed 220 acres to Schaeffer on July 29, 1740. Freame died in January, 1741. His heirs by certain indentures of lease and release, bearing date the 22nd, and 23rd of August, 1745, conveyed another large tract adjoining the Schaeffer tract to John George Knowl (Noll). By an Indenture of bargain and sale, dated August 13th 1749, made tripartite between the said John George Knowl of the first part, of John Casper Stoever, the elder, administrator of Jacob Kitzmiller, deceased, of the second part, and Sigismund Handley of the third part, the said Sigismund Handley became the owner of the tract. This deed recites that Kitzmiller had become the purchaser of the tract from Knowl but died before he obtained title from him. It also states the historical fact that Jacob Kitzmiller had erected a grist mill on the premises in his lifetime. He evidently bought it with that intention, and the time of its erection can be fixed during 1745 and 1746. This is, therefore, and without any doubt, the earliest mill erected along the Swatara in the township. Rev. John Casper Stoever, Sr., afterwards became the owner of the same; and he and Catharine, his wife, granted it to their son, John Casper Stoever, Jr., on May 13, 1765.

As stated in a deed by Freame's executors to John Edris for 188 acres of land located in Tulpehocken township, Berks county, on the 13th day of February, 1755, and recorded in said county, one can, with reasonable definiteness, fix the center of this manor as near Frystown, Berks county. The boundary lines run thus:—"beginning at a white oak standing in a fork of a run in a line of Thomas Lower's land, then south, ten degrees easterly, by the same and vacant land, 980 perches, to a black oak thence south, 87 degrees easterly by a line of trees, 1, 355 perches, to a white oak, thence north, 80 degrees easterly, 160 perches to a post thence north, 10 degrees westerly, by the Proprietary's land, 1,280 perches, to a post, thence south, 80 degrees westerly by a line of marked trees, 1,480 perches, to the place of beginning." These boundaries as here given were written in 1755 and may be considered as correct. The Manor and its lines were then familiar to surveyors and scriveners.

In the *Swatara Kirchen Buch* (church record of the Moravians, it is recorded that on Tuesday, February 11th,



DRAFT OF FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN BETH

1755, Daniel Born, eldest son of Ludwig and Anna Maria Born, was married to Margaretha, daughter of John Michael and Anna Margaretha Kohr. Said record also states that she died on July 5th, 1772, aged 40 years less a few months. In a record of members of the Moravian Church at Hebron the entry is found that Michael Kohr was born in Bethel on September 29th, 1732.

Comparing these facts it would seem that these two were twin children of Michael and Anna Margaretha Kohr and were born in what is now Bethel Township; the first children and the first pair of twins born within its limits of which the record has come down to us. Michael Kohr and his wife and children landed at Philadelphia, he taking the oath of allegiance on September 11th 1728. They came from Erstah in the *Chur Pfaltz*. This fact is stated upon the faith of the entry in the said Swatara Church record at the death of their son George Casper, which reads thus, viz: "May 28 1801, died George Casper Kohr, blacksmith, farmer and miller, aged 76 years, 7 months and 21 days. He was born October 7th, 1724, in Erstah in the *Chur Pfaltz*, and came to this country as a child of three years." He died where Kohr's Mill used to be on Elizabeth Creek, a mile south of Fredericksburg. We can therefore safely conclude that they soon came to Bethel after landing, and were of the earliest settlers in the vicinity of Fredericksburg. The land was taken up by a warrant for 250 acres dated December 12th, 1738. It, however, by actual survey contained 372 acres and 73 perches and extended eastward to the road leading from Fredericksburg to Lebanon. This tract was first taken up as above by Abraham Stettler. Abraham Stettler by a bill of sale sold it to Andrew Krof on December 10th, 1741; he on September 23rd, 1746 sold it to Jacob Eckolt; he sold it to John Barger; John Barger on October 12th, 1749 sold it to Peter Grove; he sold it to Christian Ohrendorf and Christian Ohrendorf on April 1st, 1762, sold it to his son-in-law, the said George Casper Kohr. On April 16th, 1763, he entered into an agreement with Matthias Groh, the adjoining land owner on the north, for the construction of a mill race on his land. It thus appears that Kohr's mill, running until a few years ago, was erected in 1763 or prior thereto. It may have been built by Ohrendorf and was undoubtedly the first grist mill erected near to, and

for the convenience of, the people living in the neighborhood of Fredericksburg.

It may also be stated here that people undoubtedly lived in the locality earlier, although no land warrants can be shown prior to Sept. 7th, 1732, the date of the purchase of this land from the Indians. The settlers often lived on their lands a considerable time before taking out their warrants for the same.

The earliest warrant for land in Bethel Township is dated March 11th 1733; and under it $238\frac{1}{4}$ acres and allowance were granted to John Snevely on May 28th, 1760. It comprises within its limits the western half of Fredericksburg. The tract adjoining it on the east was warranted to John Reynolds on October 8th, 1738, and comprised 193 acres and allowances. The Reynolds must, however, have lived there as early as 1735, since Stoever in his Records gives the Reynolds as witnesses to baptisms in the neighborhood in that year. It comprised the *Eastern* part of Fredericksburg within its boundaries! The division line between these two tracts ran north 13 degrees east from the southwest corner of Martin Rudy's orchard along the alley past Sholl's and Gebhart's stores within about six perches of the Street where the north line of Reynold's tract ended. Snevely's line continued from there north, 5 degrees west, to the lane that leads in to Gideon Shnotterly's farm. The tract comprised within Fredericksburg to the north of Reynold's tract and west of Snevely's was known as the Lorentz Houtz tract and was originally taken up by a warrant to Christian Pining dated March 12, 1743. It consisted of 102 acres and allowances. The south line of it adjoining the Reynold's tract extended from the above named point in said alley north, 75 degrees east, 158 perches to a black oak and from thence north, 85 degrees east, 86 perches. It is now in the road leading from Fredericksburg to Pinegrove. It included all the land now included in Cedar Hill Cemetery and a considerable tract east of it. The Reynold's tract, except what is now a part of Fredericksburg, has long been known as the Oberholtzer farm. The south line of the Reynold's tract extended along Elm Street running east, 10 degrees south, 100 perches to a white oak and thence east, 5 degrees north, 151 perches. Francis Reynolds is given as the eastern adjoiner at that time (1738). To the

south of the Reynolds tract lay the Oberholtzer tract taken up by virtue of a warrant dated May 18th, 1739. This tract extended about 25 perches west of Centre Street. It comprised 169 acres and allowances. The mansion house and a part of the tract is now the farm of Jacob Shnotterly. North of the Pining or Houtz tract Sigismund Haehnle is mentioned as an adjoiner in 1743 and had then taken up 155 acres as is also Frederick Haehnle who had taken up what now comprises Solomon Baeshore's farm. In said survey Abraham Stettler (who had taken up the Kohr tract first) is mentioned as an adjoiner on the south and to the east of John Reynolds in place of Francis Reynolds who was there in 1738. This Francis Reynolds lived where D. Webster Bickler's farm now is, and doubtless is the same Francis who afterwards took up a part of, and lived on the site of, the city of Lebanon. He disappears from Bethel completely.

To the south of John Snevely was the Audley Snevely tract consisting of 164 acres and allowances, taken up by a warrant dated May 5, 1734. In late years it was known as the John Groh, or "Uncle Groh" farm, and was purchased from the John Groh estate by Martin Light and by him sold to John H. Lick, who tore away the old red-painted, one-story block house, widow "Auntie Groh's home," and erected a modern dwelling on its site. The old building with its steep roof and high gables was presumably erected by Snevely, and was used in early times as a place of refuge during the raids of hostile Indians. It had a projection above the door which faced the east, and numerous loopholes so arranged as to command the space in all directions in front of the house.

The north side of the John Snavely tract is the lane leading west, north of Mechanic street, or "Reamstown," now known as Shnotterly's lane. It extended in a straight line south, 80 degrees 30 min. west, 377 perches. To the north of it lay Adam Bright's tract, comprising a little less than 100 acres, and westward of this lay the tract of John Nicholas Eisenhauer. This extended 284 perches westward and comprised 168 acres, 117 perches as surveyed Nov. 21, 1764, the warrant being dated Jan. 20, 1753. The adjoiners of Eisenhauer in 1764, were Jacob Meily, John Holdiman, Henry Snoderly and Frederick DeFraim. This information is taken from a record of the original survey in the office of the Sec-

retary of Internal Affairs at Harrisburg, the name Eisenhauer being written Ironcutter.

John Meily took up 360 acres on May 6, 1740. His tract was west of Eisenhauer's.

In the Bethel Moravian Church records it is written that on October 2nd, 1752, George Green, Robert Green's son was buried on Meylie's plantation. In the Hebron records this entry is found, viz: "May 29, 1759, there were married in the church, widower Adam Faber and widow Elizabeth Spitler born Meily. His parents were Jacob Faber and Margaretha Faber, born Hopp, and he is the fourth son. Her parents are Jacob Meile and Anna Meile, born Cassel. She is the second child and first daughter." This widow had been the wife of *John Spitler* who was murdered by the Indians on May 16, 1757. Rupp mentions that she escaped upon that occasion to her father's house a few miles from Stumptown. Her oldest brother, indicated by the entry, may have been Jacob Meily a name of importance in the northern section from 1775 to 1800; or more probably said Jacob Meily was her younger brother and the older brother was Henry Meily, who, according to Stoevers Record married Veronica Spitler, a sister of Mrs. Elizabeth Faber's first husband, on July 31, 1743. She died December 1, 1773, aged 50 years and 12 days. This makes the date of her birth November 18th, 1723, and the birth of Jacob Meile 1700, or before. He and his wife are probably buried in an old burial ground that can yet be seen on the farm.

Peter Grove who had been the owner of the Kohr tract at one time at an early date became the owner of the tract south of the Oberholtzer tract and east of the Lebanon road.

This tract is at present owned by Emma Grove Kase, a descendant of the first Peter Grove. The other Grove farm, now owned by Morris Spannuth, south of the Edmund Snevely tract was taken up by Peter Folke by warrant dated February 18th, 1737. It was 200 acres originally. The adjoining given in the patent were Mathias Groh on the south and east, John Smeltzer on the south and Henry Tups (Dubbs) on the west.

Matthias Groh took up 191½ acres on May 6, 1752. It lay south of the Oberholtzer and Folke tracts and was bounded on the south by the Casper Kohr or Abraham Stettler tract. The east line is given as north 15 degrees west 171 perches

to the Oberholtzer tract which was part of its northern boundary. It comprised the Grove (now Spannum) Mill site and land west of the Lebanon road from Sherksville Cross roads northward. The adjoiners given on that side are Peter Grove and Casper Sherrick (Sherk). There is also an older survey on record made by William Parsons, surveyor. He notes thereon that the place was settled already in 1743. On that survey the adjoiner on the east is given as Thomas Magbee instead of Peter Grove. Who was this Thomas Magbee? Probably he was none other than the famous Indian trader, Capt. Thomas McKee who located at McKee's Half Falls in 1744; and lived there till his death in 1772. The McKee's were present at the baptism of the Reynold's children in 1742, and on April 15, 1744, Thomas and Elizabeth McKee acted as sponsors for the baptism of John Reynold's daughter, Bridget, as Stoevers' Records clearly show. From Fredericksburg he probably left for his new home.

Henry Dubbs took up and lived on what used to be the Wenger farm. In Sauer's Germantown paper of the date of Sept. 14, 1759, appears the statement that Anna Maria Dubbs and Heinrich Dubbs, administrators of Heinrich Dubbs, will make sale of his plantation.

The homestead lately owned by Solomon Groh, was originally taken up by Philip Shroetterly, on March 25, 1738.

From the foregoing statements taken from the original warrants and patents it will be seen that the town of Fredericksburg is located on lands included in the original John Reynolds, John Snively and Lorentz Houtz patents.

The John Reynolds to whom was patented a large tract, now the Oberholtzer farm, remained seized thereof until his death. His will, recorded in the Register's office of Lancaster county, in Will-book, Vol. A-1, was made on April 30, 1745, and proved on Sept. 16, 1745. He says in his will that he is "far in years and of an old age." He gives one English shilling to each of his sons, Francis and Joseph, and to his son John he bequeaths his plantation. This John Reynolds on Feb. 10, 1761, with his wife Elizabeth, deeded the farm of 193 acres and allowances to Frederick Stump of Heidelberg township. As witnesses the deed bears the names of George Reynolds, Philip Marsteller and John Snively.

Frederick Stump moved upon his plantation and became a citizen of Bethel township, and laid out the western part of it into town lots. May 1, 1761, is the earliest date on which can be found any deed given by him and his wife, Anna, for lots. In a deed to Andreas Klunk the following language is used:—"A certain lot or piece of ground, situate in the township of Bethel, and in a certain town there laid out and called Fredericksburg." The deed also states that it was bounded by a lot taken up by Leon Mathan on the west.

Other purchasers of lots were Christian Coffman and Peter Eisenhauer. The latter purchased a tract of 10 acres and 14 perches on May 15, 1764, from Stump, the same being a part of the Reynold tract. He also bought a part of the Lorentz Houtz tract consisting of 28 acres 139 perches from Frederick Stump on May 2, 1765.

While the idea of the town was Stump's, it is almost certain that John Snavelly had quite a hand in the enterprise, for he and his wife, Mary, also sold lots. On May 1, 1761, they deeded the lot where Gideon Shnotterly now lives, to Jacob Egler, as lot number 124. On the same day they deeded "lot No. 144 (now owned by Sholls) to Peter Icyhauer," merchant. On October 1, 1761 Stump and his wife sold all the land west of Center Street to John Snavelly. On June 10, 1762, Frederick Stump, "Tavernkeeper," gave a mortgage to John Snavelly on his whole remaining tract for 1500 pounds. On Dec. 29, 1763, Stump and his wife sold all their interests in the town to John Snevely except what was reserved in this recital in said deed, viz: "And whereas for the better improvement of the remaining part of the said tract of land the said Frederick Stump laid out a town called Fredericksburg and caused several parts and parcels of the same to be divided and laid out in lots according to the General plan of the said town, and the said Frederick Stump and Ann his wife have already granted and conveyed by deed to several persons divers of the said lots under the yearly ground rents as in said deeds mentioned which said lots are numbered in the draught or general plan of the said town as follows, to wit: 182, 160, 152, 265, 207, 206, 205, 134, 220, 219, 172, 276, 277, 282, 221, 228, 280, 95, 96, 97, 58, 99, 60, 128, 345, 346, 347, 358, 149, 132, 279, 284, 285, 286, 283, 266, 130, 151, 135, 157, 227, 229, 230, 269, 270, 271, 278, 129, 156, 53, 75, 202, 92, 351,

74, 154, 399, 117, 118, 119, 116, 112, 159, 133, 135, 136, 150, 40, 381, 380, 379, 382, 383, 411 and 412. It will thus be seen that the first original and correct name of the place as bestowed by Stump himself, was Fredericksburg. Later it was at various times called Nassau, Newton and Stumpstown. Why its post office was for a score of years known as Stumpstown is difficult to explain. A map published in 1770, made from actual surveys, has the town named Nassau. In only one deed that the writer could find the name of Nassau, that of Paul Wolf "and Sophia his wife" to Jacob Kohr for the southeast corner of Market and Centre streets. It is recited in that document that Jacob Frinks, of the Kingdom of Great Britain, by his attorney in fact, John Ashley, Esq., of the City of Philadelphia, did grant what was Reynolds tract, to Eleanor De Haas on May 7, 1791, together with the rent charges "of the town of *Nassau* commonly called *Stumpstown*." In certain deeds the name *Newton* was used. In a deed given by Snavelly to Christian Kauffman, May 3, 1764, it is recited that the lots Nos. 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, and 374, are situated in Newton.

Again, in a deed dated June 12, 1766, for the lots of St. John's church, they are described as being "in Newton in the township of Bethel." But the name Newton was probably abandoned in 1766, as it is not found later than that year. On Howell's map of 1790, the town is marked Stumpstown, and at that time and in the beginning of the Nineteenth century it was generally known by that name. It is so marked on the map of Dauphin and Lebanon Counties, *issued* under the provisions of an Act of the Legislature passed the 19th day of March 1816, by Thomas Smith. In 1826, the post office was established and called Stumpstown. It so continued until 1843, when the post office department, at Washington on the petition of some of the citizens, changed the name to Fredericksburg.

Stump parted with all his interests to Snavelly, who was the owner of the Reynold's tract and also became the possessor of the Houtz lands, for on Jan. 15, 1763, Lorentz and Eva Houtz sold to him 23 acres and 12 perches west of Center street. Thus we see that Snavelly had now become the owner of the whole of Fredericksburg. The court records inform us that on Aug. 6, 1766, Snavelly and his wife, Mary, gave a

mortgage for 1400 pounds to Matthias Bush, of Philadelphia, on his original tract and on 85 acres of the Reynolds tract. The docket states that the mortgage was foreclosed and the property sold by the sheriff, on May 5, 1770, to Matthias Bush, the Mortgagee, who then became the owner, not only of the two plantations, but also of the greater part of the village. He kept his possessions so acquired for more than five years. The records show that on Sept. 6, 1775, Matthias Bush, late of Philadelphia in North America, now residing in London, and Rebecca his wife, granted the Reynolds tract to Jacob Franks of London. On the same day they granted the original Snavely tract to John Platt, sr., Henry Appleton, Sampson Wright, Henry Chapman and John Brothers, Esquires, executors of William Neate, late of London. Alien land-ownership seems not to have been forbidden by law in those early years, but then Fredericksburg was not California.

Frederick Stump was a son of Christopher Stump, though it has been erroneously stated that his father's name was John Frederick Stump. The father lived in Heidelberg township and died there in October, 1779. The son was born in about 1733. His wife's name was Anna, and tradition says she was a sister of John Snavely. In signing deeds she made "her mark."

In 1758 occurs the name of Frederick Stump in the assessment list of Schaefferstown, and in Sauer's German paper of Philadelphia, in the issue of Nov. 9, 1759, the following advertisement appeared:—

"Frederick Stump in Heidelberger Taunschip in Lancaster County macht bekannt dasz er pulver, Bley und allerley Kramer-Waare, welcher erst Kurtzlich von Engelland gekommen sind, zu verkauffen habe: Auch schuleder, und er kauft auch Flachssamen, Butter und allerley andere Dinge, so die Leute haben und gibt for solche den höchsten Preis. Er gibt fors pfund gedorte Kalberhaute 10 pens. Er kauft auch rinds und andere Haute, und bezahlte davor nach Proportion; und man kan auch Samstags mit ihm handeln."

"Frederick Stump, in Heidelberg Township in Lancaster County makes known that he has for sale powder, lead, and all kinds of peddler-ware, which only late came from England. Also shoe-leather, and he also buys flax-seed, butter, and all kinds of other things that people have, and gives the highest

price for the same. He gives 10 "pens" (cents?) per pound for dried calves' hides. He also buys heifer and other hides and pays for them in proportion; and he can also be dealt with on Saturdays."

He without doubt had his store in Schaefferstown. From Abraham S. Brendle's excellent book, "A brief History of Schaefferstown," he had his store on the southwest corner of Market Square. On the draft or "Plan of the Main Part of Schaefferstown," copied into said book, Frederick Stump is given as the owner of said corner, and the lot is numbered 17.

The last deed but one from Stump, is to Peter Eisenhauer for 28 acres 139 perches of land (part of Lorentz Houtz tract) on May 2, 1765. From that time all traces of him and his wife disappear from the town he founded except that he (*himself only*) deeded the house and lot where Levi S. Peiffer now lives, to Wilhelm Frymoyer in 1768. Frymoyer was a brother-in-law of Stump, as appears from the will of Stump's father. What became of Stump about 1765? His subsequent history for some years, is found in the printed volumes of the Colonial Records. The Frederick Stump who founded Fredericksburg and the Frederick Stump who, in 1758, killed ten Indians where Middleburg, Snyder County, now is, are one and the same person. Frederick Stump emigrated to that region some time in the year 1765, and thus passed entirely out of the history of the town which he founded. His checkered life and subsequent adventures will in the future be made the subject of another paper by the *Editor of this Paper*.